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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Channel 11 News

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CITY Baltimore, Md.

SUBJECT Best Kept Secrets, Part 3

DAVE DURIAN: A Navy seaman aboard the U.S.S. Nimitz has been arrested and thrown in the ship's brig. Investigators say they found evidence linking Michael Walker to the alleged spying activities of his father. Retired Chief Warrant Officer John Walker is in a Baltimore jail, charged with passing secrets to the Soviets.

Well, you might ask yourself, what could possibly entice someone to turn over secrets to the Soviets? After pledging support to the U.S. Government, what makes someone, an American, risk the dangers of spying for another country?

Rich Hollander answers those questions in the third part of his cover story series, "Best Kept Secrets." Tonight he introduces us to a man who knows first-hand how the recruiting works.

RICH HOLLANDER: Meet Mr. Smith, an Army sergeant with top secret clearance, who spent nearly ten years in a charade spying for the KGB and all the while remaining loyal to the United States. Smith was first approached by a man he thought was from Eastern Europe.

MR. SMITH: The pitch that was made to me, or some other kind of pitch, can be made to anybody, anybody at all they think can do them some good or someday be able to do them some good, even if today they're not in a position to get classified information.

HOLLANDER: The man cultivated a friendship with Smith. He turned out to be a Soviet spy with the code name Tory. Eventually Smith gave Tory an Army telephone book.

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SMITH: The act of my fulfilling their request, bringing them a phone book was part of hooking me.

Pretense is a great world, because, yeah, there was kind of a layer of friendship and "Hi. How you doing?" But, of course, the longer it went on, the more we both knew that it was all business.

When you are actually passing documents or films, you do not have physical contact. You either use a dead drop, leave it for them somewhere, or you do a brush contact where you just pretend to bump each other on the street, pass -- if either one of you is hot, so to speak, or carrying something that would result in trouble if you were caught carrying it, you don't really stop and talk anywhere.

HOLLANDER: As the years went by, Smith played along. Only a handful of people knew he was a double agent. He lived the spy novel.

SMITH: I also had a camera device that looks like a notebook. However, when you open it and -- it's small, about that big -- you can simply roll it over a printed page and take pictures of documents with that.

HOLLANDER: What if you are caught? The KGB said have a story ready, like those documents must have been lost in the office mail.

SMITH: They're not interested in you. And if there is a problem, you're dropped. You're dead in the water.

HOLLANDER: Smith was never caught by American counterintelligence.

SMITH: I like to think that I was good, rather than say they did something real stupid.

HOLLANDER: Does the KGB respect the FBI? Yes, says Sergeant Smith. He says the Soviets had him travel to foreign countries, Colombia and Mexico, to pass documents, all because the KGB was concerned about detection if the drops were made here.

DURIAN: Rich, do your sources say there are that many people out there who really are willing to commit treason? I mean why do they do this?

HOLLANDER: Well, good question. Money, ego, lust, revenge. That is why people commit treason, not because they think communism is better. And we learn all about that in part four.